ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system and methodology to facilitate communications security in a distributed computing and applications environment. A pass-phrase is generated to wrap a strong set of security credentials that are employed to establish trusted relationships between entities such as a service provider and one or more partners seeking access to the provider. The pass-phrase is generally constructed from weaker cryptographic material and is generally transported or communicated separately from the wrapped security credentials. When the partner desires to access service resources, the pass-phrase is employed to unlock the strong set of security credentials contained within the wrapper. The unlocked security credentials are then utilized to establish encrypted communications channels between the service provider and the partner.

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